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access is provided to supplementary and illustrative material that for many would otherwise be unavailable. The value of the volume for pedagogical purposes is enhanced by the inclusion, at the end of each important article, of questions which should prove stimulative to the thinking of the student along collateral lines as well as suggestive of practical problems to which they may relate. Review problems at the end of all ten chapters except the first three provide material for the much needed exercises or laboratory work in connection with courses in statistical methods. The author is more or less apologetic for the inclusion of these problems, but unduly so; no instructor in statistics will begrudge them the few pages of space that they occupy and all, on the contrary, should welcome them as a valuable aid in teaching.

WILLIAM O. WEYFORTH.

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Workingmen's Standard of Living in Philadelphia. By William C. Beyer, Rebekah P. Davis, and Myra Thwing. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1919. Pp. x, 125.

Among the many attempts to measure living costs, this report of the Bureau of Municipal Research of Philadelphia must be awarded high rank. In 1917, the Bureau undertook to establish a living wage to serve as a basis for the payment of manual laborers in the employ of the city. Thoroughly alive to the fact that any estimate in terms of money would have but momentary value, the Bureau determined to derive such a "goods standard" that its money equivalent could be calculated at frequent intervals.

In arriving at the "goods standard," experts on diet, housing, and industrial relations were consulted, and the work of Chapin, of Cotton and Little, and of the War Labor Board was studied; but main reliance was placed upon a new investigation among self-supporting families of Philadelphia manual laborers whose principal bread-winner did not earn more than \$2,000 a year. As usual, the attempt to induce families to keep accurate accounts met with little success. The best data were secured by skilful personal interviews based upon an elaborate schedule. The answers of each housewife were tabulated, and the estimated expenditures checked with the income. If there was a larger discrepancy between income and disbursements than five per cent, the schedule was rejected. Great emphasis was placed upon obtaining quantities of goods used as well as payments.

The conclusions are presented at length in the fourth chapter. The standard of living consists of (1) a two-story row house with six rooms, a bathroom, a laundry, a furnace, and gas for cooking and lighting; (2) five tons of coal, 26,000 cubic feet of gas, and fifty-two boxes of matches; (3) food in amounts specified for a family of five individuals with the consuming capacity of 3.80 adult males; (4) clothing, the articles needed by each member of the family being listed in detail; (5) car fares for 708 rides; (6) certain cleaning and toilet supplies; and (7) the unspecified standard. The lists in groups (1) to (6) are very detailed and complete. After their money cost has been determined, 21 per cent is added for group (7), comprising health, furnishings, taxes, recreation, education, insurance, and other miscellaneous items. In the fall of 1918, the money equivalent of this standard was \$1,636.79.

The authors recommend that this goods standard be revised at least once in five years, and that its money equivalent be calculated annually in order to fix minimum wages for adult males in unskilled manual municipal employments. They suggest that similar standards be devised for other classes of workers.

Any estimate of a cost of living is an easy target for criticism as to minutia. It is hard to imagine, for example, a manual laborer's making a pair of hose supporters

last for a whole year, or five twenty-five cent tooth-brushes cleansing five sets of teeth 1,095 times apiece. On the other hand, the authors frankly recognize the difficulties in their way and show that each item is the result of careful study. They proclaim that the standard is based upon conditions in Philadelphia in 1918. They would be the first to admit that their standardized Philadelphia house hardly exists in Indianapolis or in New York, or that their annual dietary might be difficult of realization in New Orleans or in Bangor.

The working-out of a standard expressed in goods has long been the goal of persons interested in the cost of living. This book is a welcome contribution to the solution of the problem.

FRANK H. STREIGHTOFF.

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Animal Foodstuffs, Their Production and Consumption with a Special Reference to the British Empire. By E. W. Shanahan. London, George Rutledge and Sons; New York, E. P. Dutton and Company, 1920. Pp. viii, 313.

If the professors of economics and political science in American universities wish to blush, the following recipe is recommended:

Select at random five doctors' dissertations in those fields, approved by each of ten American graduate schools, and compare them with E. W. Shanahan's thesis on *Animal Foodstuffs* presented for the degree of doctor of science in the University of London.

In the preface Dr. Shanahan says:

"An attempt has been made in this inquiry to survey quite impartially the productive resources of all important parts of the world in respect of animal foodstuffs. This has involved a great deal of detailed research. Throughout this part, and indeed throughout the whole of the investigation, the close relationship between animal foodstuffs and concentrated feedstuffs has been insisted upon. The main conclusion drawn has been that the supplies of animal foodstuffs tend at present, and are still more likely in the near future, to be deficient.

"This has led to an inquiry into the economic position of animal industries in agriculture, into their costs of production, and into the economics of consumption in relation to production in respect to them. All these have been studied in their bearing upon future movements. No distinct attempt, however, has been made to deal with the subject of marketing which arises in this connection since the field appeared too wide and the questions too complex and technical for adequate discussion."

The 318 pages of text are divided among Part I, Production—192 pages; Part II, Consumption—82 pages; and Part III, The Production and Consumption of Animal Foodstuffs in the British Empire—42 pages.

The author says that it is a study in economic geography and agricultural economics. His utilization of agricultural economics is excellent; and if his mastery of geography had been as thorough as his mastery of agricultural economics, the book would indeed have been a very great treasure. It is a treasure, nevertheless; but like most economists, he assumes that he can deal with geography without knowing much geography other than the locational variety. His apparent ignorance of the fundamental facts and factors of climate has caused a few slips and misappreciations in a book which shows a very careful and wide survey of the literature bearing upon the meat producing resources of the world.

The food supply has become a world problem, and the recurrence and utilization of this background fact in the book is most useful.

Dr. Shanahan's thesis is a valuable addition to my book-shelf.

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